

## ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT INDICES AND INFORMATION

*Ecosystem Goal: Humans are part of ecosystems*

### Groundfish fleet composition

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Fishing vessels participating in federally-managed groundfish fisheries off Alaska principally use trawl, hook and line, and pot gear. The pattern of changes in the total number of vessels harvesting groundfish and the number of vessels using hook and line gear have been very similar since 1994. They both were high in 1994 and then decreased annually through 1998 before increasing in 2000. The total number of vessels was about 1,404 in 1994, decreased to 1,151 in 1998, and was 996 in 2004, the most recent year for which we have complete data (Figure 139). Hook and line vessels accounted for about 1,114 and 674 of these vessels in 1994 and 2004, respectively. The number of vessels using trawl gear has tended to decrease; during this eleven-year period it decreased from 255 to 191 vessels. During the same period, the number of vessels using pot gear peaked in 2000 at 315, but decreased to 203 in 2004. Vessel counts in these tables were compiled from blend and Catch Accounting System estimates and from fish ticket and observer data.

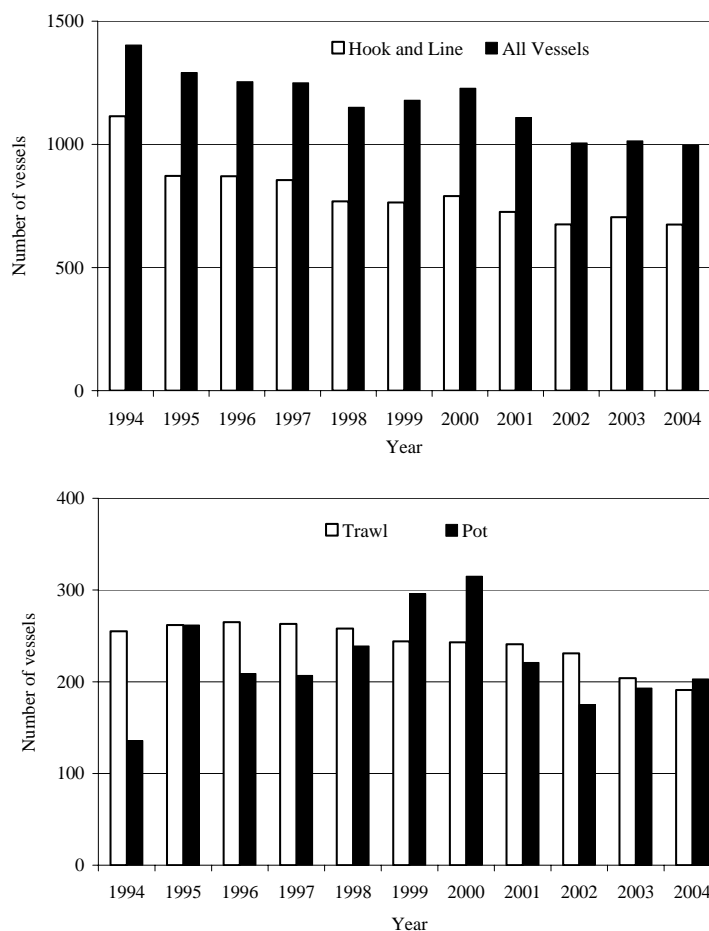


Figure 139. Number of vessels participating in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska by gear type, 1994-2004.